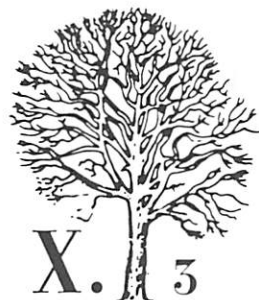


ACORN

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. Newsletter



Fall 1985



ACORN X - 3

FALL 1985

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.

191 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P9

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

<i>President:</i>	Howard V. Walker
<i>Immediate Past President:</i>	Alice King Sculthorpe
<i>Senior Vice-President:</i>	Nicholas Hill
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Donna Baker
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Carel Kippers
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Douglas McPhie, C.A.
<i>Secretary:</i>	Betty Dashwood

Membership-at-Large: Kenneth H. J. Clarke, Carel Kippers, Peter John Stokes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial
President's Report
Branch News from East to West
General Conservancy News
Around and About Ontario
Coming Events and New Publications

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: Marion Walker Garland,
86 Augusta St., Port Hope, Ont. L1A 1G9

Contributing Editor: Peter John Stokes

Editors:

Quinte Region Mr. Rodger C. Greig, Cherry Valley, Ont. K0K 1P0	Hamilton-Niagara Region Mr. Nicholas Terpstra, 1801-205 Hunter St. W. Hamilton, Ont. L8P 1R8	Port Hope Mrs. Hugh Murray, 13 King Street, Port Hope, Ont.	Brant County Mrs. Audrey Scott, 117 Dufferin Ave., Brantford, Ont. N3T 4P9
Toronto Region Mrs. Elizabeth Ingolfsrud, 6 Strath Ave., Toronto, Ont. M8X 1P9	London Region Mrs. Nancy Tausky 288 St. James St., London, Ont. N6A 1X3	Heritage Cambridge Mr. Ross C. Chapple, R.R. 33, Cambridge, Ont. N3H 4R8	North Waterloo Region Mrs. Joye Krauel, 254 Stanley Drive, Waterloo, Ont. N2L 1H8
Durham Mrs. M. H. Boyce 16 Ann Arbour Crt. Whitby, Ont. L1N 5T6		Huron County Miss Kathleen Reid Box 2033, Bayfield, Ont. N0M 1G0	

EDITORIAL

In the Spring, 1985 issue of *Heritage Scotland*, the magazine of the National Trust for Scotland, we read some words of the president, The Earl of Wemyss, which, although written in March, 1965, are still relevant.

'In recent years the Scots have given as much thought as any nation in the world to care for the countryside and friendly and intelligent reception of the holiday traveller . . . modern society, with more money and the mobility which the aeroplane and the motor car supply, prefer active leisure to passive leisure — people want to **do** as well as **see** . . . access to the countryside can best be achieved by multiple use of land by agreement between existing owners and users of land and local and central government, or **some appropriate agency** operating on behalf of government, and that some system of this kind must be supported by the provision on adequate information and intelligence services 'on the spot' to advise assist and possibly guide the holiday traveller . . .'.

And so a Countryside Commission for Scotland was created with the National Trust for Scotland supplying a ranger service in meeting the public need for access to the countryside.

Our attention is drawn to the dawn chorus walks at Crathes Castle in May. The rendezvous there with the ranger is at 3:30 a.m.!

We do not need to show only houses on our tours. As mentioned in the account, in this issue, of the Spring Tour, Peter John Stokes pointed out vistas, winding streets, areas where large trees were preserved as homes were built, patches of sweet rocket, and black and honey locust trees. After all, it's right there inside the front cover of ACORN; — and for the protection of the Province's places of natural beauty.

Marion Walker Garland

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By the time this edition of ACORN is distributed we shall have had our Annual General Meeting and a new council will have been elected. As my two year term of office also expires in October, this message, is the last one that I shall be writing as President, A.C.O.

First of all, therefore, I should like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve in Ontario's oldest non-governmental conservation organization and also to thank my colleagues on Council for their solid support.

It has been heartening to observe that, in the case of the Conservancy, age is accomplished by increased vigour and new blood. In regard to the latter, ten branches are now represented on Council; we also hear expressions of interest from time to time from other parts of the Province and I believe that growth is inevitable with increased awareness of the tangible results which can be achieved by conservationists through mutual support and consolidation of individual effort.

Two years ago I made reference to the fact that, for me, ACO also represents Action, Credibility and Organization. I am extremely happy to be able to say that through the work of Council and Committees such as the Professional Advisory Committee those words are indeed becoming appropriate synonyms.

The support of our Corporate benefactors, listed elsewhere in ACORN, provides necessary financial assistance and, equally important, again is a welcome expression of confidence in our ability to carry out our mandate.

In the same vein, as members know, it has long been our hope to establish a heritage fund from which loans can be made to Council and Branches for the restoration and preservation of worthy buildings. This objective could become much closer to reality if we can take advantage of a generous proposition from the Laidlaw Foundation which is prepared to make a substantial grant to us providing we can also obtain additional significant sums from one or more similar sources. A small committee has taken up this challenge under the able and untiring direction of Mr. Wentworth Walker, who has been carefully nurturing this prospect for the past several years.

We should be delighted to hear from representatives of Foundations or the corporate sector who might wish to learn more about this exciting concept.

With prospects of this nature, and the continuing dedication of our members, I believe a bright and productive future lies ahead for the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. I am very happy to share this good news with you.

Howard V. Walker

BRANCH NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

QUINTE REGION

The Quinte Region Branch has continued its plan of an architectural walking tour on the third Sunday of every month in 1985. Still to come are Deseronto – Sept. 15; Bath – Oct. 20; Stirling – Nov. 17; and Belleville – Dec. 15.

In June we toured Lonsdale, a tiny ghost town north east of Belleville, where half a dozen lime-



Former store at Lonsdale, now a private home. It is up for sale.

stone structures cling to the sides and bottom of a sharply picturesque little river valley. This is not the dead gray limestone of Belleville or Kingston: it is tinged with the most charming caramel colour. We held a pie social at the former school house, maintained now by the Women's Institute.

In July we toured Adolphustown, viewing the Loyalist memorial church, the nicely restored board-and-batten township hall, the venerable Hay Bay meeting house, and the imposing, citified Allison house that is used as the Loyalist Society's museum. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Robinson generously showed their elegant home on the shore, evidently a very early frame structure with wide centre hall right through. Of particular interest was the 1822 church, now the parish hall of St. Alban's, which retains enough early details to repay careful archaeological investigation and scrupulous restoration.

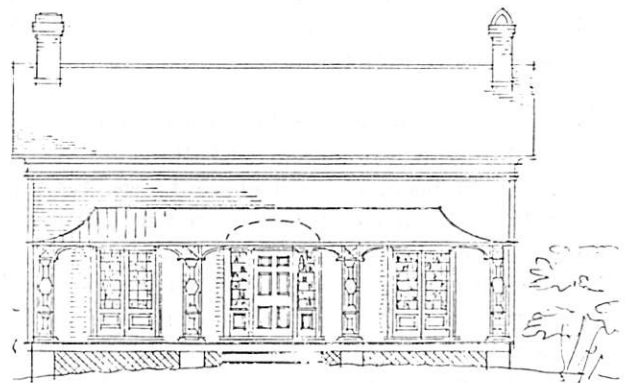
In August we toured Brighton, long an important centre from which the Danforth Road swung off to cross Prince Edward County. Brighton shows many traces of Greek Revival Style in its housefronts. There is a certain blankness caused by the tornado of a dozen years ago and unsympathetic modern infilling, but the main street is still very notable for the splendid succession of brick commercial buildings along the south and east sides of the main inter-

section. We were served tea by the hospitable staff of Proctor House, on its commanding height above the town.

Executive meetings have been held in buildings of interest: one at the 1809 White Chapel near Picton, which our two students painted this summer under the Branch's federally-funded SEED programme, and one at the old Trenton town hall. Both places are without electricity, and our secretary thinks of studying Braille.

The SEED project exceeded all expectations. Many people have inquired whether we'll be undertaking the same thing next year. To get the project started, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Greig each put up a thousand dollars, since they expected to provide the bulk of the employment. Of the 1064 hours worked, they each used 372 hours, and the rest was divided among three other householders, the Prince Edward County Archives building, and the White Chapel. The two students received six dollars per hour, the federal government paying four dollars of this. Such a project would be a help to an architectural student, giving experience in a number of different building techniques. These two boys learned a great deal about plastering – actually plastered seven and a half rooms themselves at the Greig house. Plastering is a skill that is in short supply, and one of the boys finds that he is being asked to undertake other plastering work, now that he knows how.

We include a sketch of Peter Stokes's and David Lane's suggestions for preservation of the Patterson house, also called the Haight-Sutherland house, at Niles' Corners. This is where we had tea at the end of our May walking tour of Wellington. Likely built in the 1820s, it has a fine doorcase with fan light and



SOUTH FRONT
PROPOSAL for PRESERVATION
HAIGHT-SUTHERLAND HOUSE
Near WELLINGTON, Ontario

tunnel-vaulted hallway. The French doors and certain Greek Revival details are from a re-vamping perhaps in the 1850s. The Danforth Road used to go past the door, but Niles' Corners is miles from the modern highway 33 that has been designated the Loyalist Parkway. Drive by some time.

Trenton's old town hall was without electricity when our executive met there because the Police, its last occupants, had just moved to a new building and the city have handed the mangled remains over to the Trenton Historical Society, who are initiating a group campaign for \$100,000 to start restoration. It is a very neat and handsome Greek Revival structure, designed by Kivas Tully and built in 1861. Pilasters ornamented the ends, and the sides were given interest by a three-bay recessed section. When you see how fine Napanee's town hall now looks, you realize what Trenton can look forward to. You also realize what Picton could do, and what Belleville has lost.

Planning for 1986, we find that two p.m. on the third Sunday of the month is a good time for architectural walking tours and have scheduled eight of them, as follows: April 20 — Bloomfield; May 19 — Glenora; June 15 — Trenton; July 20 — Roslin; August 17 — Cherry Valley; September 21 — Odessa; October 19 — Madoc; November 16 — Belleville. A lecture on funding for historic restoration is suggested for January 19 in Napanee; and the February 16 meeting will be held in Belleville in collaboration with LACAC to celebrate Heritage Day.

The Settler's Dream, on the architecture of Prince Edward County, is meeting with great favour from those who are in the know, for its comprehensiveness and general accuracy. It has more photographs than anyone has any right to expect for the price. It can be obtained, postage paid, at \$39.95 from its publishers, The County of Prince Edward, Drawer 1550, Picton, Ontario K0K 2T0. Tom Cruickshank, who did most of the research and writing, will be giving a series of six talks for our Branch on successive Thursday evenings at the Dufferin Centre in Trenton, starting Wednesday, October 9.

PORT HOPE

Several members of the Port Hope ACO attended "Port Hope Day" at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, along with performing groups of dancers and bands. An ACO display featured the very handsome Port Hope Colouring Book. It was hoped that this occasion would provide a sales outlet for the colouring book, but selling, unfortunately, turned out to be forbidden by the rules governing this kind of exhibit. Consequently copies of the book which has excellent drawings of some of the town's finest houses, are still available. The CNE participation was

successful in all other respects.

The Canadian National Railway Station here has been successfully restored. It will be seen by holders of House Tour passes in October. It is expected, by the way, that the station will go back into more active use now that VIA Rail has undertaken to alter its schedule to include not only the present morning stop of the Toronto-bound train, but also a much-needed "request" stop on the service leaving Toronto at 4:30 p.m. to accommodate Toronto-Port Hope commuters, of whom there are quite a few. Nine hundred or so people signed a petition requesting the stop. Hurray! And thanks to the Port Hope Chamber of Commerce, which mounted the petition, and to the petitioners as well.

Bob and A. K. Sculthorpe's farm, Sora Brook, was once again the scene of a very pleasant annual barbecue for ACO members and families.

It has come to our notice that a resident in this town has some wooden sash windows stored in his stable. They date about the late 1800s, and were removed from a house this summer. He is willing to give them to someone who would make good use of them, and possibly a donation to the ACO. Their dimensions are as follows:

- 4 of 35 $\frac{5}{8}$ " x 34 $\frac{5}{8}$ " — 6 paned (16 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ ")
- 2 of 34 $\frac{5}{8}$ " x 27 $\frac{5}{8}$ " — 6 paned (10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ ")
- 2 of 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ " — 2 paned (24 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ ")
- 2 of 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 28" — 6 paned (10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ ")
- 6 of 34 $\frac{5}{8}$ " x 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ " — 6 paned (10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ ")
- 6 of 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ " — 6 paned (10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 14")
- 6 of 34 $\frac{5}{8}$ " x 23" — 3 paned (10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 20")

Write to ACORN editor and the letter will be forwarded.

TORONTO REGION

Our Fall programme will begin with an impressive start on Wednesday, October 16th when John Sewell, well-known columnist for the Globe and Mail and former mayor of Toronto will share some timely tips and advice through his chosen topic **Strategies for Saving Buildings**. A capacity audience is expected so all those who plan to attend should come early.

On Tuesday, November 26th, the speaker will be William Dendy who will give an illustrated lecture on his new book **Toronto Observed**. Mr. Dendy has spoken to us before and we look forward with enthusiasm to his visit.

All of the Fall and Winter meetings will be held at Hydro Auditorium, 700 University Avenue. The October and November meetings start at 8:00 p.m.

LACAC News

The Toronto Historical Board reports that on May

21st, 1985, Toronto City Council passed by-laws 420-85 and 421-85 to designate Fort York and Wychwood Park as Toronto's first two heritage conservation districts under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act. The Fort York district consists entirely of City-owned lands. Wychwood Park, on the other hand, is a residential neighbourhood located west of Bathurst Street on the slope of the escarpment which marks the shoreline of prehistoric Lake Iroquois. Once the two designation by-laws have been approved by the Ontario Municipal Board, the Toronto Historical Board will review all applications for new construction, demolition or alterations in the districts, and make recommendations to Toronto City Council regarding approval of the necessary permits. The Toronto Historical Board will also monitor Wychwood Park as a pilot project to ensure the effectiveness of heritage conservation district designation under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act as a heritage preservation tool before recommending any further districts for designation.

New Plaque

A commemorative plaque has been installed at 1599 Bathurst Street, an apartment building which was the residence of internationally acclaimed American author Ernest Hemingway, who lived in Toronto a short time in the early 1920s while he worked as a reporter for the *Toronto Star*. The plaque was sponsored by Richmond Properties (a division of P-F Productions Ltd.) which now owns and operates the apartment building known today as "Forest Hill Place."

Threatened

On June 17th, 1985, an application was made to demolish commercial properties on the City's Inventory of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Importance at 150-154 and 156 King Street East. Located prominently at the north-east corner of King and Jarvis Streets, these rare remaining examples of the once predominant Georgian style in Toronto will be familiar to those who enjoy shopping at the St. Lawrence Market. On July 18th, 1985, the Neighbourhoods Committee of City Council adopted a Toronto Historical Board recommendation that the properties be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, in order to allow time for discussions to continue with the owners, Notila Holdings Limited. The recent renovation of nearby buildings on the Inventory at 29 Jarvis Street and 94 Front Street East illustrate the potential for continued use of heritage buildings.

New Additions to the Inventory

At its July 24th, 1985 meeting, the Toronto Historical Board's Executive Committee, acting for the Board during the summer recess, recommended two additional properties for inclusion on the City's Inven-

tory of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Importance, **Walmer Road Baptist Church** (1889-1892) at 38 Walmer Road, and the **Canadian Tire Store** (1929) at 839 Yonge Street. After the required official notification to the owners of these properties, the Board's recommendations will be forwarded to the Neighbourhoods Committee of City Council. In the meantime, the staff of the Board's Historical Preservation Section have indicated to the City's Department of Planning and Development the Board's support for preservation of at least a substantial portion of the building's volume on Yonge Street in a potential redevelopment of the Canadian Tire site. Similarly, staff will be encouraging repairs to, rather than demolition of, the steeple at Walmer Road Baptist Church.

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

Parks Canada Honours Katherine Hebblethwaite

Wit, charm, energy and breadth of knowledge are just a few of the attributes Katherine Hebblethwaite has brought to the heritage movement in Cambridge over the last 25 years. It is largely through the persistent efforts of a small group of people such as Katherine that our beautiful and historic city is still resplendent with magnificent public buildings, commercial blocks, residential streetscapes and river



Katherine Hebblethwaite

Photo courtesy of *The Cambridge Times*

views. After 15 years as a director of Heritage Cambridge, she has recently resigned to devote more of her time to archival research. We were therefore particularly pleased that Katherine was recognized by the National Parks Centennial Citizens' Committee for her outstanding contribution to local heritage.

Council members know Katherine from her role as Heritage Cambridge representative for the past

three years. For others, who may not be aware of her accomplishments, the following is a partial list:

- set up local history room for Galt Public Library.
- organized the first public program for heritage conservation in Cambridge – a McMaster University Ontario Heritage seminar in 1970.
- was a founding member of Heritage Cambridge.
- began the inventory of heritage buildings in Cambridge.
- prepared for publication tour of Galt, Preston and Hespeler.
- wrote a history of Gore Mutual Insurance Company and articles for the Waterloo Historical Society annual volumes.
- gave innumerable walking tours, bus tours and slide presentations to students, teachers, service clubs, etc.
- assisted in setting up the City of Cambridge archives.
- founding member of Cambridge LACAC.

We are understandably reluctant to see Katherine leave the Heritage Cambridge board but have every intention of calling on her expertise as often as she will permit.

BRANT COUNTY

Brantford Downtown

The Brantford Downtown has been under the scrutiny of heritage buffs and developers alike for many years. In 1976 a major demolition took place – that of the Kerby Hotel on Colborne Street, which had been damaged by fire. The site is now marked by a block-and-box tavern.

Negotiations began for a major development. Conservancy files follow the on-again, off-again procedures through the years. Finally a building permit was taken out, as of July, 1985, for a mall to be built on the site of the former market square and City Hall. (The latter, in a Classical mould, was removed in the 1960s.)

Downed for the development were a comfortable Italianate commercial structure with rebuilt front on Dalhousie Street, the Wine Gallery and the complete terrace of George Street shops once connected with the hotel. Most of these buildings have been written up previously in ACORN.

Kitty-corner to the new development there has been built a Senior Citizens' Centre with a magnificent view of demolitions, highways, and industrial yards, we hope only temporary. The interior is in efficient non-traditional style. There have been countless arguments about parking and bus routes. Currently a terminal is proposed for a former parking lot on Dalhousie Street.

On the positive side, the Brantford Business Improvement Area organization has tried to inspire



Colborne Streetscape

existing businesses and owners to upgrade structures so that all the activity will not be channelled to the new mall.

Hendrik Lenis was chosen to head up a six-months program which has made use of Conservancy materials (The Conservancy survey was done in 1979) and moves on from there to suggest treatments for individual storefronts. The hope is that a Main Street Heritage Grant can be obtained to do the actual work.

A B.I.A. meeting was held in the spring, where Don MacIntosh of Cambridge described some of the work being done in that city. From a Conservancy standpoint all aims of the program were not compatible. Many were, however. The dangers of "letting someone else do it", and of waiting too late are very real for Brantford. The dangers of poor traffic planning were pointed out by Mr. MacIntosh, also the misuse of street furniture which can be hard to maintain and negotiate around. Examples of upgrading illustrated in slides were that of Perth, Ontario, and Nelson, B.C. Much employment was generated in both cities through the project. Moose Jaw, Sask., and

Fort McLeod, Alberta, were also illustrated, as well as Windsor, N.S. Program ideas for promoting the Downtown were a major thrust of the Heritage Program. There was considerable discussion of "signage" and compatible use of same. Restoration examples were also given — with considerable use shown of original detail such as cornices and brackets.



The Wine Gallery

Mr. MacIntosh's talk followed that of Mr. Lenis, who spoke specifically about Brantford. He and his assistants, Greg Gale and David Aldred, had a mock-up of an older façade. By removing modern aluminum siding, an original front with interesting window details was revealed. A compatible storefront was inserted on the main floor as an illustration for the group. A third layer of the display showed the façade cleaned and painted, with an original-style storefront in place. Mr. Lenis, who is a competent artist, showed slides to illustrate Brantford locations then and now. Many of the former were taken from old postcards. (Overhead wires were once omnipresent.) For example, changes at the Ideal Furniture store included



Ideal Furniture Store

the cutting away of a bay window. Original streetscapes emphasized the rhythm of doors and windows over all. Cosmetic treatment to unify several sections of a terrace was also discussed.

The story of Brantford downtown continues. At present, 169 and 171 Colborne Street are slated to be replaced with a six storey office building, for which parking has been planned. We have struggled for years to save these buildings. Will additional structures go for the parking? The streetscape is to be broken further by demolishing a building as access to the new bus terminal. So development eats into the heritage of a city, in ways unforeseen when initial proposals were made. We wait to see if the B.I.A. proposals will lead to any significant restoration, and if there will be anything left to restore.

Heritage Tea

Once more a spring Heritage Tea was planned and executed by the Branch. For the first time, several buildings were part of the tour, all of them well-known tourist attractions, including Myrtleville, built in 1837, former home of the Good family at 191 Balmoral, where a bake sale was conducted, tea served, and hasti-notes of Brantford in reprints and several new series were sold. Conservancy slides of restoration projects were shown, for the house is now operated as a museum. Margaret Chandler was guide to the historical collection at Heritage House on the grounds of the W. Ross Macdonald School which is not always open to visitors. A downpour prevented many visitors from reaching the Mohawk Chapel and the Bell Homestead.



The Shaver House

Shaver House Visit

Members also visited the H. Shaver residence on Oak Hill Drive in Brantford. The property of twenty-four acres abuts river land, and an adjacent parcel has been designated as a cemetery. A major problem

is the erosion of the Grand River bank, the dam lower down raising the river level. On the west side of the property are several outbuildings including a barn, on the east, a garage, and nearby, the main house and a smokehouse. The last has barred windows and may also have been used as a jail. The main house is a centre-hall plan with a restored porch over the centre lower bay. Originally the verandah extended across the front and down the east side, as markings on the brick would indicate. The house has a fieldstone foundation, but with main walls of brick laid in common bond. The five bay front has four large windows of twelve panes, a centre door emphasized with a six pane transom, and two three-pane side-lights, each with a wooden panel, moulded, beneath. Porch pillars are cylindrical with plain capitals, circular base and rectangular panelled pedestal. The six-panelled door is in the familiar Cross and Bible form. The main feature of the façade is a low-pitched gable, with a round-arched divided window. Other windows have segmental arches. Side elevations have two windows to each storey.

The rear wing has a verandah covering door and windows to the east, two muntined windows to the west, the rear elevation with a window and a disguised door, centre rear chimney and eaves returns. In the rear wing are three rooms, a long kitchen to the left, scullery and pantry to the right. Kitchen furniture includes cot, stove, rocker and table, painted green. The door to the outside is of interest, with its wide 8" boards.

The main part of the house is divided into four rooms, a new kitchen in a former bedroom, a dining room, parlour and a bedroom from part of the original double parlour, with a bathroom which was cut from the bedroom in the 1920s. Original baseboards are about 18" deep.

In the hall there is a plain stairway with turned newel posts, wide baseboards, and fretted designs on the stairs. There is a wide door flanked by pillars

to the parlour. The windows are low, with window seats in the walls and a single moulded panel underneath. There are no fireplaces, stoves bring the vogue in the mid-1800s when the house was built.

The second floor is divided into four large bedrooms, with the hall lighted by the centre front window. Wide original floor boards are here in evidence. In the early days, for a large family, as many beds as needed would be placed in one room for the girls, and another for the boys. Grandparents and parents would most likely occupy the smaller rooms. The original down-stairs bedroom is said to have been for the hired man or hired girl.

The Shaver home is an important one, dominating an entire section of the Grand River bank. Fortunately its owners and their children are interested in restoration.

The house at 29 Park Avenue is another home visited this year by the Conservancy. An award was presented to Mr and Mrs. E. Tinknell by Donald Pettit on behalf of the group. This simple city home has been well maintained, and its interior is of particular interest to the collector.

NORTH WATERLOO REGION

Dr. Kenneth McLaughlin

Dr. Kenneth McLaughlin, Chairman of History at the University of St. Jerome's College, Waterloo, Professor of the Public History Programme at the University of Waterloo, and a member of the North Waterloo Branch, received with co-author Dr. John English, the **Canadian Historical Association Regional History Certificate of Merit** (at their Annual Meeting in Montreal in May of 1985) for their book *Kitchener: An Illustrated History*, published by the Wilfrid Laurier University Press. The book deals admirably with Kitchener's built heritage as well as tracing Kitchener's socio-political development as a centre of Germanic culture in Canada.

In May of this year, Dr. McLaughlin also received the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture **Ontario Volunteer Service Award Pin 1985** for his outstanding work for the Joseph Schneider Haus restoration in Kitchener, Ontario.

In June, Dr. McLaughlin received one of two **Carnochan Awards 1984** from the Ontario Historical Society "in recognition of outstanding contributions to the understanding of our history and our heritage."

Last fall, Dr. McLaughlin received one of the three first-ever **Awards For Outstanding Achievement 1984** from the Ontario Museum Association "in acknowledgement of an outstanding contribution to the museum community of Ontario." In 1982, he received, with Curator Susan Burke, the Heritage Canada Foundation's Communications Award (for the Joseph



29 Park Avenue

Schneider Haus Restoration) and in 1981 he received the Heritage Canada Foundation's Communications Award (Ontario) "for an outstanding contribution to the conservation of Canada's built heritage."

HURON COUNTY

Early Mills of Huron County

The early emigrants to Lower and Upper Canada needed the entrepreneurs who set up mills of every kind, none more so than those who followed the Huron Tract and took up land from the Canada Company all over Huron County.

The earliest mill mentioned in the History of Goderich Township, V I 1984, was a grist mill built in 1833 by William Van Egmond west of the Town of Seaforth. Earlier than that year grinding the grain the settler was able to raise meant walking miles with a heavy sack on his back to the nearest miller who had fashioned a couple of rough grinding stones to grind the grain into flour, bran and shorts, the latter two items for animal feed.

Beginning in the 1840s, mills were built to meet many needs – sawmills, wool, carding, grist and also for distilleries and breweries. The location of all these mills depended on a suitable site near a waterfall or swiftly flowing water which could be dammed or, through water flumes or spillways, built near quarries located near spring water. Later horsepower was used, especially in dry seasons when the water power dried up. Nearly all these early mills disappeared when more industrialized businesses were set up employing larger numbers of men, who worked on a year-round basis earning regular wages. After 1871 mills were run by steam and all the small mills disappeared completely, sometimes leaving no more than a pile of stones, or a depression where water flowed along the earth raceway leaving a few surviving logs which had been part of the dam.

However, there is one mill which has survived even up to the present day. Anyone interested in mills in this area knows Elmer Trick's mill located on County Road #13, a few miles west of Clinton. This mill was first operated in 1847 for grinding oatmeal and was built by Alexander Grant. A sawmill was built on the opposite side of the stream. It was an 'up and down operation' which is now in the Henry Ford Museum. These mills changed owners over the years until 1873 when the land, water and equipment were all purchased by Thomas Trick, and was called the Spring Creek Mill which had two sets of stones and two turbines. The mill stones were large, each weighing a ton, and were over five feet in diameter, placed side by side. They were imported from France and were called French burr stones. The two turbines bought in 1878, are set in motion by the water flow-

ing underneath the mill through wooden flumes, (now made of steel) and they are still operable. They made very good flour which in turn made fine cakes. Great care had to be taken to keep the mill stones and filters thoroughly cleaned.

After some time the Tricks discontinued this type of milling, but continued grinding a coarse grain until after 1943. They also ran a shingle mill at one time.

Over the years the Trick family has gone from one form of milling to newer models. Four generations have taken an active pride and interest in maintaining the property from Thomas to his son Robert, and his son Elmer, and now William whose ambition it is to put it all in active, operable condition.

They have many artifacts from the mill's hey-day in the last century. Almost everything that was ever used was kept – there are levers of many different designs, piles of cowhide leather for belting, boxes of maple teeth for gear replacement and original hand made chains. The Tricks have all taken great pride in having kept the original instructions of how to mix emery for re-surfacing the millstones, and of course, the original grant and release from the Canada Company to Alexander Grant.

It is a most picturesque and fascinating place that has really lived for nearly 150 years.

(Much of the history of the Mills of Huron County comes from the Township of Goderich History, printed in 1984 and compiled by Sandra Orr.)

GENERAL CONSERVANCY NEWS

COMMENT

There is a growing need to examine and question the regulations, and more particularly their administration which impinge on the preservation of our older communities and buildings. Nowhere is this more evident than in the rapidly developing suburbs in the Metropolitan Toronto area and on the fringes. Perhaps the City of Toronto has some problems too, but everyone has been so used to their complexity there that obtaining permits for renovations or additions may have become better organized since that aspect of building is a large component of the business in older built-up areas.

Some municipalities, however, are getting an unenviable reputation as bureaucratic bees' nests where the innocent are constantly stung by delays and demands which tend to counter preservation. The problem usually relates to the municipality where development is rapid or sudden and largely new, large and of comparatively high value. Virgin farmland is cleared for new subdivisions or industrial

plants arise from speculatively held wastelands, but essentially the same forces are at work: the construction is brand-new, can be codified, regulated and provides few inherent difficulties which cannot be resolved by application of the municipalities or other authorities' standards.

However, take the poor less worldly human being interested in improvement of an existing property with building already in place and pop, literally, goes the weasel. And before the end of the exercise the owner will have wished to demolish the existing structure, important or not as heritage, or demolished it and suffered the consequences rather than tackle the barbed wire entanglement some municipalities seem to offer as the next best alternative. The requirements are geared clearly to mesh with modern, that is new, development where the ground is unencumbered and the building still a figment of someone's imagination. This even applies to those new regional wens which have absorbed long-established and separate communities, but seem to have forgotten that their still disparate parts are often trying hard to retain their distinctiveness if not their distinction. For the latter is easily eroded not alone by the non-caring owner but by the so-called "system" which treats the problems of the built environment as if it didn't exist, ignoring its special considerations, its many existing variants as if it were the normal building project starting afresh.

Just try to weave your way through the requirements none of which quite fit the existing bill. You will be shunted in some jurisdictions from pillar to post, colliding with every conceivable obstacle to improving an older or existing building. You will meet — mostly in absentia — and via confirmed comments and notes on why you can't do it that way and have to follow exacting demands not necessarily related to the case in question, a seemingly endless parade of characters who largely remain signatures at the bottom of a type-written sheet. A sort of remote roulette game with the dice loaded in favour of not getting an easy win, if a win at all. You may try and try again to get through the maze; it takes time and a large portion of patience. You find on your way through that secondary plans have been drawn up for the older area your building is located in: a new set of standards and regulations is set up which may not relate too clearly and seldom sympathetically to the present condition which might well be worth preserving. Nobody responsible really thought through the problem from the inside, as an inhabitant of that special part of the community. Every municipal department will have a crack at your project, a miserable one relatively in terms of money and scope, buildings, planning, engineering, traffic, parks and recreation, fire, etc., etc., etc. Is

there anyone who really understands the older built up area of municipality, the historic centres that started it? What happens to be needed is a special agent in charge, a sort of ombudsman who knows the ground and the building to be dealt with intimately, has studied all the alternatives which can be applied, and is sympathetic and constructive towards the saving of the community. What a fascinating stimulating and creative job that would be! Such a person would be responsible for guiding the project through the maze, to see the regulations sensibly interpreted to fit the case in hand, to help the owner out of the predicament and get the project on the road by following through and consulting with other municipal departments only as necessary.

There needs to be not only reorganizing municipal departments, but a completely new approach to the problem. This is essential to separate the sheep — the big and modern projects — from the goats, those billies considered too "smelly" to deal with properly. Some municipalities in the developing fringe may be contemplating this, one at least suggests that this reorganization is already in hand. Otherwise our older communities within enlarged municipalities will likely to be lost by default, by constant and unnecessary harassment of owners trying to enhance their older properties. The system, if it isn't working towards preservation of our environment surely has to be wrong or wrongly directed. Otherwise Mississauga may have to suffer its nicknames of Messissauga and Miserysaga and Vaughan and Scarborough among others to be similarly castigated.
P.J.S.

Our Spring 1985 Tour

The A.C.O. bus trip of the Niagara Peninsula on June 8th and 9th with Peter John Stokes turned out to be a panoramic view of the "Golden Horseshoe", the former fruit-growing areas south of Lake Ontario, St. Catharines, Old Niagara, the Parkway to Chippawa, Welland and its canals and even Cayuga on the Grand River. It sounds impossible but we did it.

With perfect June weather, lunches provided by the Port Hope branch with the Sculthorpes in charge and a relaxed and obliging driver, Bill Holden, at the wheel, we settled back to enjoy and absorb as much as possible of the changing scene.

Before leaving Metropolitan Toronto, Peter invited us to look at our suburban heritage especially the early 20th century development of the Kingsway where large trees were preserved as they built homes, many constructed of Humber Valley stone. Thorncrest Village, too, remained well-treed and should become a designated area, one of our more inspired post-war suburbs both for its planning and original

housing, much of it designed by architect Cox, and before unsympathetic redevelopment destroys it. The contrast to the suburban sprawl of Mississauga and the scorched earth policy of the big new developments was obvious.

The route to Hamilton took us over parts of Burnhamthorpe Road, Highway 10 and the Dundas (Highway 5). We passed through the old village of Meadowvale, Streetsville, Palermo, Nelson, Waterdown and Clappison's Corners. At least some of the towns and villages have retained their identity and still have some older buildings worthy of note. There is very little farm land still being worked, but some of the farmhouses have continued in use with their Gothic Revival lines and "gingerbread". At the village of West Flamborough we stopped to walk around the impressive McKinlay/McGinty house where restoration is in progress under the guidance of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Peter explained brickwork — Flemish bond, here on the front and both ends of the house — this house was built to endure.

As we travelled toward Ancaster we enjoyed the settler's trees of black and honey locust and patches of sweet rocket in bloom. Before long we had arrived at the Botanical Gardens and were thrilled by the many varieties of iris in bloom and at their best. We stopped for a brief walk among the old-fashioned roses blooming before the modern hybrid teas. A picnic at Lamb's Hollow was rewarding in another way — with chilled chicken and devilled eggs, specialties of our Port Hope friends.

We crossed the Bay on the Burlington Skyway noting the progress of the part under construction. Then, again avoiding the super-highway, we followed old Highway 8 through Stoney Creek, Grimsby, Beamsville and Vineland — all often visited in the past but now missed generally for lack of time. In many places going past impressive old Victorian houses and dignified churches we could forget that we were passing near former fruit orchards and vineyards now losing their battle against bulldozers and developers — and encroaching industry. At Jordan we detoured through part of a village where many older houses and the old winery still stand.

St. Catharines with its winding St. Paul Street has some traditional commercial buildings, even a few with cast iron fronts and decorative trim. The exterior of the old courthouse is preserved and houses a number of boutiques. There is a notable Greek Revival air about the mid-nineteenth century houses, giving the older part of the city a certain American appearance.

Over the Welland Canal and through Homer and Virgil and we had reached our destination, Old Niagara. We went directly to the Niagara Historical Society Museum where members had the silver tea

service ready to serve us tea and cakes in the midst of a wealth of treasures from the Janet Carnochan collection. They made us feel welcome indeed, and it was here that we met our hosts and hostesses for the night.

There was still time for a short walking tour about the old town with Peter to describe the most interesting features of the restored buildings. We visited the Roman Catholic Church (1834) which we had missed on former visits. The use of wood in its groined vaulting was a special feature and the muted colours in the painted trim were very beautiful in the late afternoon light. Some of the other buildings were more familiar — St. Marks, the Customs House, McLelland's Store to name a few — but our time was limited because we were due back at the Moore-Bishop-Stokes House.

Ann and Peter Stokes welcomed us to their home and, assisted by some of the committee, treated us to a very impressive buffet dinner. We had time as well to make a tour of the 1828 house — to hear what had been built in the earlier days, what had been changed and added, and what was planned further in the work of preservation. There was great interest in the way the stair had been made to accommodate a stove pipe and in the construction of the bakeoven reconstructed by following outlines found in the original structure. The whole project is clearly a work of love.

Sunday began with pleasant visits over breakfast with those hospitable people of the town who had welcomed us to their homes. Then off to an early appointment at the Richardson-Kiely house on the corner of the Fort Mississauga reserve, now the golf course. There is a story, now discounted, that a tunnel ran from this property back to the fort. The owners were our guides, and as young members of their family tried to make the way clear for us we surveyed the rooms furnished and in use. The main part of the house was constructed around 1832 but enlarged for family and holiday use. The fireplaces were impressive, an almost perfect pair in the large living rooms to the left of the hall and a beautiful marble mantel in the capacious dining room to the right. The pair of crystal gasoliers had come from the old drugstore, now restored as the Niagara Apothecary, and when that was refurnished replicas had to suffice. In the kitchen behind the dining room an interesting old cooking fireplace has a built-in cooker of sheet-iron, with firebox below, alongside, described as a Rumford roaster (since it served that purpose rather than baking) and a rare cooking device. We were all intrigued by the curved door and door frame on the landing of the stair and the unusual brass newel enclosed by a curved cage of balusters. The Kiely's pets greeted us too and certainly enhanced the lived-in feeling of the house.

Next we drove toward Queenston stopping briefly at the stately old landmark, Willowbank, of 1834. In contrast to the house we had just left, this was badly in need of owners who have the means and will to restore and care for this heritage home. As we stood below it, knee-deep in grass we couldn't help imagining what it must have been like to drive up the hill on the circular driveway and look back at the river below from between those tall and elegant pillars. We hope the future is kind.*

Then climbing the escarpment past Brock's monument and along the scenic parkway to Niagara Falls – where everyone must go. Above the Falls we had another picnic and took time to note the elegance of the old and disused power-house of the Niagara Power Company (see cover) hoping that this essential part of our past will be preserved.

Further along the river we paused at Chippawa to look into Holy Trinity Church of 1840 designed by John G. Howard and recently redecorated. Here are memorials not only to our soldiers lost in the 1812-14 war, but to the Americans and Indians as well. We more or less followed the Welland river industrial land and across the plateau above the Niagara where early farmers had poorer land and the scarcity of good early houses was evident.

Welland with its good courthouse and registry office was worthy of a pause as was the former Plymouth Cordage housing – large multiple units often semi-detached of a decidedly New England inspiration, with good lines and withstanding over three-quarters of a century of use. Port Colborne was interesting because of its key position as the Lake Erie terminus through the years for the series of Welland canals.

We followed #3, the Heritage Highway, through Wainfleet where we crossed the older feeder canal now largely a weed-choked ditch but important in the early days, to Winger and further to enjoy the trees preserved in the last improvement to shade still this section, a tribute to the intervention of the A.C.O. and others. At Dunville we first saw the Grand river at about its widest point as it nears Lake Erie.

We turned north at Cayuga and were impressed by its nearness to the river and its large shady streets and lawns. From here on we settled back to enjoy rolling landscape and the beautiful farms en route to the environs of burgeoning Hamilton. Turning down the hill along Highway #20 we arrived at Stoney Creek, looking at the old Battlefield Monument as we passed by. We approached the old Hamilton Pumphouse, designed by the engineer Thomas Keefer, to admire its functional attractiveness and simple majesty, but could not see the wonderful works within.

We drove around a few blocks of old Burlington

and viewed some individual houses of extraordinary Victorian virtuosity, learning at the same time that there is a by-law now that forbids even row-houses to look exactly alike; the architectural 'cacophony' is a far cry from the subtle 'rhythm' of London's Regency terraces.

From here we took the scenic route through Lowville and over the escarpment to Milton looking at its row of stores on the main street worthy of saving, noting that one side has over a thousand feet of virtually unbroken commercial frontage. Milton's old courthouse and jail are especially fine and have been preserved as an attractive civic centre in recent work by the architect Carlos Ventin.

Our two days of exploration ended here but not before dining in style at Harrup's, an old stone house built of large slabs of local stone scored to look like massive building blocks. Then back to reality and the Q.E.W.

Our thanks to Peter, Ann and our gracious friends in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We wouldn't have lived so well without the enthusiasm of the Port Hope group and gratitude to Bill Holden, our skilful driver.

Jean Foster

* see the item under Queenston in Around and About Ontario for the happier ending in store.

Ed: The next tour, on 12, 13 and 14th of October 1985 (the Thanksgiving weekend) will take in far eastern Ontario, including a trip through historic Glengarry and Prescott and Russell counties, and a guided tour of Upper Canada Village (by one who worked on the site from 1958 to 1961 during its construction). We look forward to the company of those who come and hope that the weather and fall's colours will oblige.

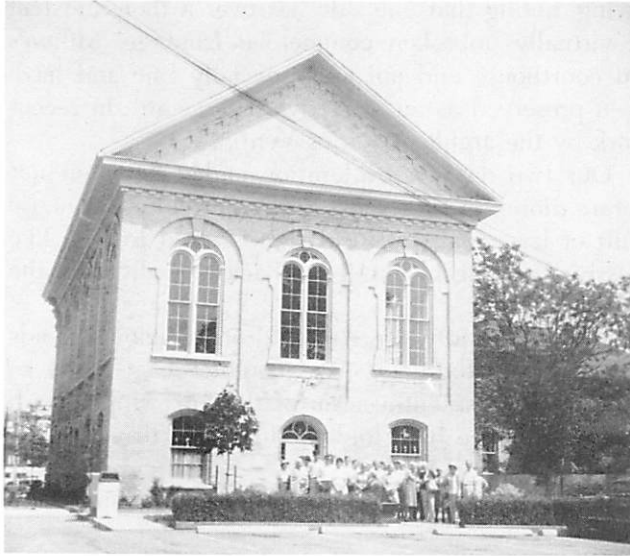
AROUND AND ABOUT ONTARIO

AMELIASBURGH

September 29, 1985 marks the official opening of the restored Ameliasburgh School, a local community amenity and headquarters of the Seventh Town Historical Society. Although closed for its original purpose many years ago and its future threatened on more than one occasion its demolition seemed imminent after a fire seriously damaged the roof structure. But as reported previously (Acorn VI - 3) local support and contributions came forward after its walls were deemed still sound enough to support a new roof.

AYLMER

Members enjoying the Spring 1934 A.C.O. tour gathered behind the restored Aylmer Town Hall now refurbished on the ground floor as the Public Library. The group went through the building and saw the grand space on the second floor awaiting its restoration as the Opera House – we hope in the not-too-distant future.



Aylmer Town Hall

CARADOC TOWNSHIP

Cook's United Church c.1905 near Christina where members of the A.C.O. Spring Tour were treated to a most enjoyable and fulfilling supper arranged for by our London area supporter, Sue Wilson. This early twentieth century white brick



Cook's United Church

church is notable for its original collection of simple and delicately coloured glass, the rose and amber shades and patterns of the Art Nouveau most memorable.

LYNDHURST

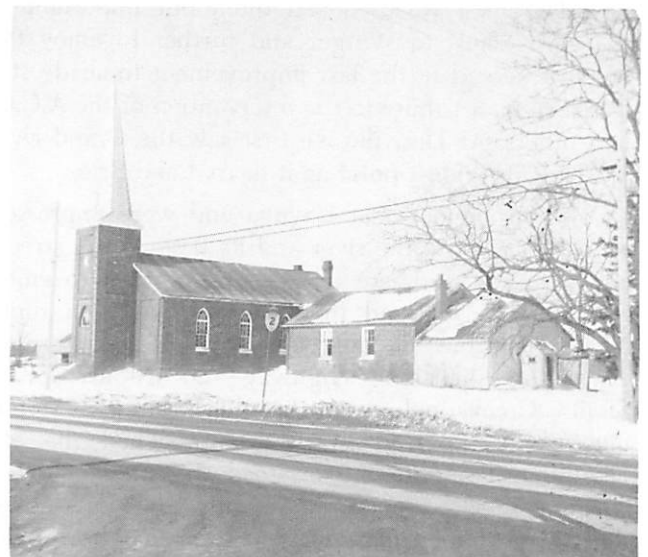
Pleas for the oldest stone bridge in Ontario – and a heritage structure – have not gone unheeded. After the counties of Leeds and Grenville threatened to demolish the bridge strong local support for its conservation came about. The resulting efforts appear to have borne fruit for fortunately the county authorities have agreed to renovate the structure (*Globe and Mail* report special from Gananoque 31 August 1985).

We only hope that this work is done with due care and concern for the original structure and design as in Church Street Bridge at St. Mary's, a project of the engineers, M. S. Yolles Partners Limited.

Perish the thought that the exercise should become another Victoria Bridge disaster (also in St. Mary's) where the second oldest stone bridge in Ontario was ignominiously replaced not long ago by a stone-faced fake on the stubs of the original piers.

NEWTONVILLE

A once familiar landmark on Highway 2 between Newtonville and Welcome, Morrish Church, is sadly no more. It may survive in name only, an interchange on 401. The church appears to have been bricked over, possibly in the late nineteenth century when a passion for such improvements was evident for where the veneer had fallen off the original ashlar patterned wood siding finished in a sanded paint was still there. We wonder if anyone recorded the building after the veneer was stripped from it.



Morrish Church



Morrish Church. The ashlar-patterned siding, sand-painted to imitate stone of the original building.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Tourism and success continue to erode this historic place and the forces of prosperity prove once again to be the greatest enemy of preservation. A recent article in the *Globe and Mail* (5 August 1985) by Lon Appleby simply expressed the top tip of the troublous overheated flame that is too rapidly melting the remarkable iceberg. And a fatuous follow-up under the meretricious by-line *Between the Sexes* (*Globe and Mail* 17 August 1985) did nothing more than destroy our confidence in the public sensibility and that paper's capability of fair and perspicacious reporting.

Two Acorn issues ago the doom of the Andrews Block was explained: the dollop of neo-Victoriana is now in place and Old Niagara is rapidly becoming the epitome of the architecture of nostalgia, not a new phenomenon in Canada regrettably. It would appear that too few care what happens, and the municipality seems quite incapable of dealing with the menace. Buildings worthy of designation, but not so declared, are being altered drastically and irreversibly while renovations to older buildings fail to deal with basic problems and do not follow conservation procedures, new interiors being plumbed into place within age-distorted structures making proper treatment in the future very costly if not impossible. Demolitions proceed without record of the structure or adequate assessment of its heritage value. Fortunately for the architectural profession's reputation its members are hardly ever in sight, but their lack of concern in this gathering mayhem is equally disquieting, for it is their heritage, and one they also consider contributing to presumably while suffered

to remain on this earth, that is being destroyed before their very eyes.

It is high time that sterner stuff be administered to this ailing and shrinking site for the local people and their elected cannot cope with the situation. If you have constructive ideas on stopping the "rot" that prosperity inevitably brings your thoughts and help would be much appreciated.

OTTAWA

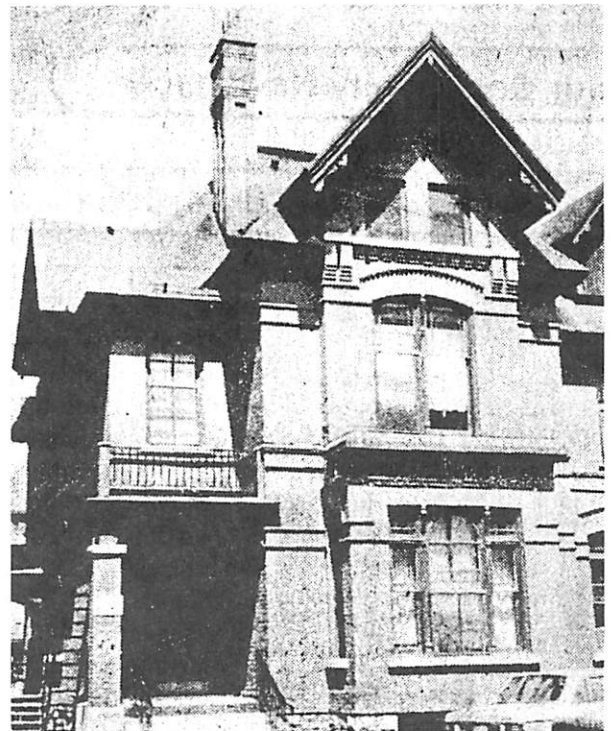
A Tale of Two Unprotected Houses

(from *Heritage Ottawa News Letter*)

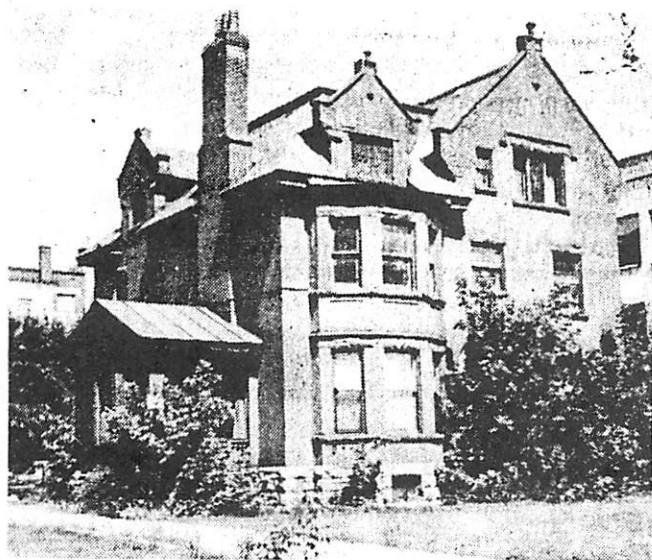
The Centretown Citizens' Community Association (CCCA) was dismayed to find that, although 191 and 215 Somerset West were on the City's 1981 inventory of buildings of potential heritage significance, they had not yet been officially designated.

Like many people in Ottawa, the CCCA was not aware that many local buildings stand unprotected. About 230 have been declared heritage and another 30 are earmarked. But 3,500 more, considered to be "of heritage interest" or "of contributing heritage value" have yet to be properly assessed. City heritage planner Richard Kilstrom says the lists contain some borderline buildings, but all should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

But herein lies the problem. For nearly 2 of the 3½ years since the 1981 list was compiled, the City's Heritage Planning section has been badly understaffed. For a building to be designated a heritage



215 Somerset



191 Somerset

structure, carefully researched reasons for designation must be prepared, to withstand the objections of those opposed to designation. It's a time-consuming process and there is a huge backlog.

When the CCCA protested against plans to demolish the Somerset Street houses and replace them with a 40-unit condominium, it found it had no legal grounds on which to stop the destruction of these century-old Victorian mansions. As it turned out, the City sides with the developer, who contended that the houses weren't unique and were out of place on the block, which now contains highrises on both sides of the street.

The houses were destroyed in mid-January.

The only good thing to come out of this sad tale is that the CCCA was so incensed to find that the houses were unprotected that it wrote to the Mayor demanding that the City redouble its efforts to fill a long-vacant heritage planner position. The Lower-town West Community Association, which also has serious worries about unprotected buildings in its area, wrote a similar letter independently. The two letters brought action. The City dropped its requirement that the candidate be fully bilingual at time of hiring (the City maintained it had had many applicants with heritage planning backgrounds, but none who were bilingual), and soon engaged a unilingual planner whom they hope to train to work in French.

The King Edward Heritage District (which also contains the delightful Martin Terrace) is a unique block in Sandy Hill: all the buildings are of similar vintage, size and style, and all sit elegantly back the same distance from the street. Martin Terrace and the double in the centre have beautifully landscaped front lawns.

William Levine, owner of 503-507 King Edward,

applied for a demolition permit October 31, 1984, saying the building was in such poor shape he couldn't renovate it and still make a profit by continuing to rent the units. Since he can't renovate and sell the units as condos because of the City's by-law against converting rental units into condominiums, Mr. Levine sees demolition as his only option. He promises the new building will be in a style "compatible" with the other two buildings in the Heritage District.

(ed. comment : who is to judge what 'compatible' is?)

Congratulations are in order for the Bank of Nova Scotia's sensitive restoration of the former Simpson's (Murphy Gamble) department store to its original appearance. Congratulations should more properly be directed to Alderman Diane Holmes, without whose efforts the restoration of this 75-year-old building would never have taken place. The Bank had originally planned to put modern fronts on both façades of its new headquarters.

Ed. This is part of the Sparks Street mall.

PICTON

On Sunday 27 July 1985 an ecumenical service was held on that beautiful morning on the lawn in front of the Macaulay House, the first such event to occur in Prince Edward County. It was also partly in celebration and thanksgiving for the County's newly launched Bicentennial publication, *The Settler's Dream*.

It is interesting to recall that the church in Albury (see *Around and About Ontario*, Acorn VI - 2) in Ameliasburgh Township on the south shore of the Bay of Quinte was built as a community church, to be shared by various dominations, although its present minister is the Reverend Maurice McLeod from nearby Rednersville United Church. The brick veneer of the 1898 Albury Church, the second to occupy the site, has been restored and other essential repairs undertaken by the community to keep that landmark.

PORT HOPE

What do you expect now and again of a hillside town like Port Hope in this day and age but a few runaway cars. Some months ago one careened into the handsome cast iron areaway fence fronting the distinguished Greek Revival McDerment Block at Walton and Brown Streets and shattered it. However the owner found enough pieces elsewhere to restore it and once again this fine composition is complete in that accoutrement.

More recently another vehicle gently ploughed into the front of Watson's Drug Store on the downtown corner of Walton and Ontario Streets. Here a cast-iron column supporting the front was knocked out, a window smashed and the later aluminum shop-

front somewhat dented, but otherwise little other damage. The mishap nevertheless prompted the owners to consider a restoration of the earlier wooden shopfront already modified from the original with transoms to conceal show window lighting and illustrated in a 1927 photograph taken on a winter's night. An even older photograph, with the handsome four-storey rounded corner block in the background across Ontario Street (where the present unsympathetic modern bank now disgraces the site), shows full height plate glass windows and this may be the model.

Regrettably, and yet providentially perhaps, the accident encouraged a more thorough assessment of the structure of the building and some very strange conditions came to light which proves how carefully such situations should be examined. The building is of the third phase of Port Hope's building when horizontal bands of ornamental brickwork decorated the façade in place of the plain and pilastered treatments of an earlier period. The Quinlan Block dated 1866 further up the street on the same side demonstrates the trend although the Watson Block is probably either late 1860s at the earliest and may be of the early 1870s sharing the detail of its segmental brick hoods to window arches with that of the old firehall of 1871. The designs of the 1880s also have this feature. The corner, not a right angle, did not follow the Port Hope precedent of a curved face here, but rather ends of bricks of both street fronts abutted to form a small recess. As in most Victorian buildings the front was supported on a massive timber beam above the shopfront and bearing on ornamental cast iron columns. Knocking an intermediate column out therefore did not bring the building down, and mercifully the car missed the corner column, otherwise it would have been quite another story. There were obviously some structural problems to be investigated for the cast iron cap plate carrying the corner and the shopfront beams over the windows had tilted because a reinforcing bracket on the back of the column had snapped. This occurred possibly early in the history of the building and may have resulted from an inherent flaw or weakness in the casting for the shaft proved on visual examination to be far from perfect with holes and irregularities filled with lead. Contributing to this failure too was the framing of the floor system above at the obtuse angle of the building where this cap and column had to support the ends of no less than three beams, those of two store fronts plus a third which squared off the building to frame in a stairwell along the Ontario Street side where it widened out. Additional support will be provided to correct this condition.

Further problems were discovered in the roof where excessive loading has caused the failure, but

not the collapse, of part of the structure and timely repairs will be put in hand. What is fascinating above is the "third floor" which is not a usable storey at all for its windows, though with frame and sash on the outside, are totally blind on the inside: the original builder in deference to the street alongside which was already built to three storeys, carried a façade to the same height. More recently the owners of the block followed the Port Hope Branch's recommendation to paint the "blind" windows to resemble real ones by rendering the "glass" in a dark slate grey and the sash and frames to match the windows below. This ruse has been very successful and nobody would suspect this *politesse*. Such is the lesson the Victorians and their sympathetic successors have left us.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

The Settler's Dream, published by the County of Prince Edward, was launched officially on the 26th July 1985 in the county town of Picton. Mr. Peter Newman was the guest of honour on this occasion and in his address noted the importance of this work not only as a record of the area but as the story of its people. The descriptions of the buildings included, representing a selection and approximately one tenth of those surveyed in HASPE (Historical Architectural Survey of Prince Edward), are interwoven with the history of the County and the stories of the owners and builders of the area. With over four hundred pages and some thousand black and white illustrations with a number of old views reproduced, and the thirty-two superb colour plates of photographs by John de Visser, the book does seem to be handsome treatment of its subject. The County of Prince Edward, and its Museum Board which sponsored HASPE, now takes not a little pride, we understand, in *The Settler's Dream*.

Of special note at that launching was Jeanne Minninnick's presentation, and like her foreword to the book so befitting the occasion, her interest in and love of people and their expressions which have for so many years been the strength of her historic interpretations. Not only local people enjoyed the event but a number of distinguished visitors also attended including Jack (A.J.H.) Richardson, Canada's number one architectural historian, whose book *Quebec City: Architects, Artisans and Builders*, is reviewed in this issue.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario should take not a little credit for the outcome too for it was *Rogues' Hollow* and its author, Tom Cruickshank, and editor, Peter John Stokes, who were responsible for *The Settler's Dream*. And, like its inspiration, there is also a glossary, on a fascinating comparative basis, of local historical detail as well as one concerned with architectural terms. The indexes too are most helpful.

The Settler's Dream is available from the County of Prince Edward, by writing to Box 1550, Picton, Ontario, K0K 2T0, and enclosing a cheque or money order to cover the cost. The regular addition sells for \$39.95 and a limited edition, autographed by the authors, and fitted in a handsome box with each copy numbered, is only \$75.00. A few book stores are also carrying the regular edition.

QUEENSTON

Cheering news – in answer to Jean Foster's hopes in her report on the Spring Tour and the worries of many local people – comes in the knowledge that Willowbank, the 1834 house designed by the master builder/architect John Latshaw for Alexander Hamilton, is now in sympathetic hands. The new owner has plans for the property which will preserve the setting of the house in all its splendour and intends to conserve the building with the utmost care. Some exterior deterioration has become evident, but its most recent use as a private school did not compromise it further although, as it has been noted, its empty interior looked sadly forlorn.

SPARTA

An updated photograph of the Elgin House taken after its restoration and renewed vitality as a restaurant enjoyed on the spring tour of 1984. (Compare this with the cover of Acorn V-3).



The Elgin House

ST. THOMAS

The west end of the city is not only notable for the old church of St. Thomas (see the cover of Acorn X-2) but also for its courthouse, originally similar to

that in Brantford and by the same architect, John Turner, and a remarkable collection of mid and later nineteenth century houses. Recently the west hill approach along Highway 3 was given a monument to Jumbo the circus elephant killed by a train as he wandered across the tracks of the Canadian Southern Railway. Now that CN and CP have purchased this route we might wonder about the magnificent two-storey station of immense length which was *once the* Canada Southern Railway's headquarters and which is reputed to have had an excellent dining room that even attracted customers from Detroit and Buffalo. (This sounds like the reputation of the Grand Trunk's dining cars in the old days – Via Rail has a long way to go!). So far the station it appears is to be maintained, but a wary eye should be kept on it. Another magnificent building originally housing the car shops and other maintenance facilities survives to the south-east of the station with a newer early twentieth century building for similar purposes built alongside it. Both these structures are used at present for manufacturing industries and are likely to be saved.

TORONTO

Koffler Student Services Centre New Life for a Toronto Landmark

The old Toronto Central Reference Library at College and St. George Streets has now begun its new life as the Koffler Student Services Centre for the University of Toronto. The recently restored and renovated building was opened by the Premier of Ontario and other dignitaries at a gala opening on September 5th, 1985.

The Koffler Student Services Centre is the most recent of a number of restorations/renovations of heritage buildings undertaken by Howard D. Chapman and Howard V. Walker, (Immediate Past President ACO), as associate architects.

Instead of library functions, the Centre now houses in one building a number of campus services and personal advisory facilities required by students and staff at U. of T. It also contains the Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama with a theatre seating 170 persons and a new bookstore for academic and general use.

The original Beaux-Arts style building *was* erected in 1907 to the prizewinning competition design of Alfred H. Chapman, (father of Howard D.) in association with the firm of Wickson & Gregg. Additions were made in 1926 and 1930. In terms of design expression, the approach taken by the architects for this recent work was to juxtapose the different formal vocabularies of old and new in a dynamic but compatible relationship, the past being revived but not repeated.

The extensive \$8.7 million adaptation of this historic building for its new purposes entailed careful attention to the preservation of the original architectural design and the intricate integration of up-to-date mechanical and electrical services with minimal visual impact. The new work is linked to the old by architectural references such as the arches in the Mall which allude to the classical origins of the original building, not in a literal way but by suggestion. Similarly, the wood panelling and door trim in the new office areas while straightforward and contemporary in treatment are also designed to harmonize with the detailing of the 1907 structure. Colours throughout were selected to achieve a fresh reinvigorated feeling for the users, to help provide



Open courtyard — before.



A mall — now.

a unifying theme and to give visual cohesion to a complex plan. In the South Hall (the Bookroom) the ceiling has been repainted not in the previous dark bronze but in brighter colours reflective of the revitalized future for the building.

Other restoration/renovation projects undertaken by Chapman and Walker include Victoria Hall, Cobourg (Phase III); Arnold House Community Centre, Town of Vaughan; Victoria Play House, Petrolia, and Assumption Church, Windsor (with P. J. Stokes). Currently they are engaged on the renovations to the 1905 Sandwich (Windsor) Post Office — one of the three nationally designated postal stations.

With the completion of the Koffler Student Services Centre a familiar Toronto landmark has been restored to its place in the city fabric, a valued reminder of the past and an active participant in the present.

STONE DETERIORATION IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

The deterioration of stone monuments has been hastened in recent years by their increased exposure to polluted and acidic atmospheres. The stone-work affected is normally thought to be of ancient origin (such as the Acropolis in Athens, Greece, or the Taj Mahal in India) but there is much to indicate that the ravages of time and pollution are occurring in Canadian heritage structures as well.

University College, on the University of Toronto campus, is well suited for the detailed study of the synergistic effects of acidic atmospheres and time on our heritage. The founding college of U. of T., University College is constructed of stone and is comparatively old. Unfortunately for the stone, it is located in the downtown core near main traffic arteries and other pollution sources. There is also a noticeable amount of decay of stone, especially in the front entrance area. There is also a good photographic record of the building due to its importance within the university and its fine architecture.

The building was constructed from designs of F. W. Cumberland, a leading architect of the time, from 1856 to 1859.

Ed. The above is an excerpt from an article by Hamish Wilson published as a supplement to the ACO newsletter, January, 1985. Copies can be had by writing to The Architectural Conservancy of Ont. Inc., 191 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1P9.

COMING EVENTS AND NEW PUBLICATIONS

"Dampness In Buildings" Featured

The Association for Preservation Technology is proud to announce the publication of excerpts from the best known continental European text on diagnosis and treatment of dampness in buildings.

Risanamento Igienico dei Locali Umidi, by Giovanni & Ippolito Massari, first published in 1960 has previously been available in Italian, French and Spanish only through publishers Editrice Hoepli of Milan, Italy. Volume XVII, No. 1 of the **APT Bulletin** contains Chapter Six: "*Characteristics of Humidity Rising From the Subsoil*" and Chapter Seven: "*Measures to Counter Humidity Rising from the Subsoil*" from this publication, translated into English by Cynthia Rockwell of ICCROM in Rome. Ms. Rockwell notes in her introduction: "In translating the book, which I had expected to be rather 'dry' and technical, I came to appreciate the special Massari brand of expertise and humor and their concern to protect clients from the hocus-pocus sometimes perpetrated in the name of humidity control. Their basic admonition is 'Never go by common sense alone; take proper measurements!' ... This philosophy is combined with clear situations, so that one acquires a good overall grasp of the subject."

The context is Mediterranean, but the principles of dampness are universal. Preservation architects and professionals, involved in the analysis of moisture in historic structures will find that this selected material, including 54 diagrams and photographs, provides an excellent introduction to the subject.

It is the hope of ICCROM and APT that evidence of reader interest will prompt English publication of the entire book. This issue of the **APT BULLETIN** also presents a study of late nineteenth century windows in the U.S., by Susan Swiatosz of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Richard A. Glance, architect of Glance and Associates, Inc. reports on the rehabilitation of the terracotta dome of the Washington County Courthouse near Pittsburgh, PA and H.A.E.R. (Historic American Engineering Record) and its role in documenting America's industrial heritage is explained in an article by architect John R. Bowie.

To order: send \$5.00 plus .50 for mailing to:
APT Publications, Dept. 7 BN R,
Box 2487, Station D,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1P 5W6

Atlantic Canada's Natural Heritage Areas

— Parks Canada

This comprehensive and colourful guide illustrates nature areas of Atlantic Canada which are outstanding and special examples of its natural heritage. The guide describes such heritage areas as:

- national parks
- national wildlife areas
- federal bird migratory sanctuaries
- provincial parks
- ecological reserves
- natural areas of Canadian significance
- provincial wildlife management areas, wildlife refuges, and game sanctuaries

in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador. (Colour photographs. Map included.)

Cat. No.: R62-222-1985E - ISBN: 0-660-11787-8 - 1985

Paperbound 21.5 cm. x 28 cm.

Price: \$14.95 (Canada) \$17.95 (Outside Canada)

All About Old Buildings

The whole preservation catalogue. Editor Dr. Diane Maddex, The Preservation Press, The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

All About Old Buildings is not just another book on old buildings. What the book exactly is, is unquestionably an American book designed to educate, encourage, and aid American preservationists with their struggle to save — whatever. It seems that if in America an artifact is likely to possess some form of intrinsic value and/or have contributed to the shaping of the American way of life, which could almost be anything, anywhere, it is then worthy of preservation.

A lengthy production at over four hundred pages in fifteen chapters *Old Buildings* is primarily a resource book. In the book can be found answers to the many questions on why, how, when, what, and where that constantly confront the heritage movement. Entire chapters are devoted in great detail to topics such as Main Streets, Form and Function, Adaptive Use, Rehabilitation and Restoration, to note just a few. Each chapter opens with a timely and provocative quotation from some noted American preservationist or author. The remaining content of each chapter is composed of excerpts often contrary in viewpoint from various sources, listings of available books, readings and short synopses as well as noting private and public organizations to approach.

All About Old Buildings is not a coffee table book, but easily could be. It is highly entertaining, educational, and a delight just to flip through, looking at

the selected period photographs and illustrations to compliment and reinforce the message in each chapter. Editor Diane Maddex and the National Trust have done an excellent job in presenting the material in *All About Old Buildings*. Although the book is written for American readers, it has its place in the Canadian heritage movement if only to serve as an aid and guide until a Canadian counterpart comes forward. Its underlying theme deals with the need to produce sound and meaningful processes and procedures by which to approach environmental and community planning. Not only buildings are worth saving and preserving, but so too certain neighbourhoods, communities, lifestyles and societies.

At forty-five dollars *Old Buildings* may seem to be an expensive purchase, but a good buy.

K.C.

Quebec City: Architects, Artisans and Builders, by A.J.H. Richardson, Geneviève Bastien, Doris Dubé and Martha Lacombe and published in 1984 by the History Division, National Museum of Man, Ottawa as part of the Mercury Series is a monumental compendium of historical and architectural information about that most Canadian of cities, Quebec. (Where in all the world can one find such a fascinating expression of the Canadian puzzle — or is it continuing dilemma?, two cultures become a single solitude). The book begins with a brief introduction, duly footnoted, by Jack Richardson and a short illustrated background history to set the Quebec City scene. Then follow over five hundred pages of crispy annotated and interestingly illustrated biographies, bursting with long sought-after information which makes this work a landmark of its kind, a touchstone against which all scholarship in the historical field may well have to prove its mettle. (A pun intended!). The book needs no index for it is arranged alphabetically for added convenience. As the summary states, the book — “helps to paint a broad picture of the building of Quebec”, through its comprehensive coverage of the architects, artisans and builders involved in its first three centuries. This publication is available from the National Museum of Man, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Ont., Canada K1A 0M8. Believe it or not, it is free!

The work is an amazing resource which has required immense effort and research, the first culmination of the quietly professional career of Jack Richardson, Canada's number one architectural historian so well-known in building history and conservation fields, and for so many years involved with the federal government's National Historic Sites Division which eventually became part of Parks Canada, and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Just ten minutes with Jack Richardson and one is lost in admiration for the information he is able to convey in a sharp, almost *staccato* reporting of his previous knowledge and latest findings all carefully interwoven into the complex fabric his talented and scholarly mind constantly weaves. And now we have it on paper, as remarkable as any of those meetings, brief or more enjoyably protracted, where lesser kith and kin are left behind; here before us to absorb whenever possible in this remarkable work, we hope just a sampling of others to follow. As heartwarming as this result of Jack Richardson's years of work truly is, his dedication, which incidentally is to his wife, speaks for itself — To Gertrude who cares. For the book *Quebec City: Architects, Artisans and Builders* we are, indeed, grateful that she does.

COVER STORY

Beaux-Arts Bombast, Niagara Falls

The 1906 neo-Classical pile of the Niagara Power Company's generating station above the Horseshoe Falls, the building now unused, but for a short time opened as the Engineerium dedicated to an interpretation of the developing technology of hydro-electric power. Another wing of comparable length to the left of the centre pavilion completes the composition with an impressive semi-circular apsidal end facing downstream. The front is of natural limestone, but the rear was finished with a cast or composition stone, presumably as an economy, but facing east and the rapids above the falls, this sadly is deteriorating. The building deserves conservation and could serve admirably the museum use explored briefly there: all it needs is the public support to release the necessary financial commitment to the project.



Niagara Power Company Generating Station

If you wish to know the address of your nearest branch, write the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, 191 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5T 1P9

Back Issues of ACORN

Anyone wishing to order back issues of ACORN please be advised that the charge will be \$3.00 a copy.

We are receiving requests by mail for copies of ACORN, and also requests to be put on our subscription list. These letters have been answered stating that ACORN is not for sale and suggesting that the writers join the nearest ACO branch and receive three copies a year.

Please send any change of address to your branch secretary and also to A.C.O. Inc., 191 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P9. In this way it can be put on the master mailing list.

**All submissions to ACORN please send to Editor-in-Chief, ACORN,
86 Augusta St., Port Hope, Ontario L1A 1G9**

If you wish material to be returned please send stamped addressed envelope.

ACORN X - 3 was produced by Richard's Printing Ltd., Port Hope

CORPORATE DONORS and OTHER FRIENDS °
of
THE ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO INC.

AYLESWORTH PARK HOLDINGS
BATA LIMITED
BRASCAN LIMITED
CANADA PACKERS INC.
CANADIAN CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED
CN REAL ESTATE
COCA-COLA LTD.
FIBERGLAS CANADA INC.
FIDINAM (CANADA) LIMITED
GULF CANADA LIMITED
MANULIFE
MAPLE LEAF MILLS LIMITED
MARGARET E. CLARKE
MATHERS & HALDENBY ARCHITECTS
MONARCH CONSTRUCTION LIMITED
OLYMPIA & YORK DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
PROCOR
PYE & RICHARDS ARCHITECTS
SCOTIABANK
SHOPPERS DRUG MART
STATE FARM INSURANCE
SUNCOR SUNOCO GROUP
THE COOPERATORS
THE FIREPLACE SHOP LIMITED
THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA
THE TORONTO-DOMINION BANK
THOMSON NEWSPAPERS LIMITED
TRANSCANADA PIPELINES
HOWARD V. WALKER, ARCHITECT
WARNER-LAMBERT CANADA INC.

° Donations of \$100.00 or more



X. 13